

Examiner's Amendment/Statement

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael Kelly on 6/17/2008.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In Claims

-- Cancel Claims 57-116.

In specification

-- Change " $y(i, j) = \text{LPF}_y(x(i, y))$ " in line 5, page 30 to - $y(i, j) = \text{LPF}_y(x(i, j))$ -.

-- Replace the title with - IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD CAPABLE OF CORRECTING GRADATION OF IMAGE DATA -.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

3. Claims 1-30 and 57-116 are canceled by the applicants.

4. Claims 31-56 (now renumbered as 1-26, respectively) are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The prior art fails to teach the apparatus of Claim 31 and the method of Claim 44 which specifically comprise the following feature(s) in combination with other recited limitations:

-- **outputting correction coefficients** to be used for correction of pixel values of the brightness data **based on the discrimination results**;

-- **correcting** the pixel values of **the brightness data and the color data with the correction coefficients**;

-- **setting the correction coefficients at a fixed value when a signal level of the discrimination results is less than or equal to a prescribed value, and setting the correction coefficients at a value less than the fixed value when the signal level of the discrimination results is greater than the prescribed value.**

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Wenpeng Chen whose telephone number is 571-272-7431. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on 571-272-7453. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for regular communications and 571-273-8300 for After Final communications. TC 2600's customer service number is 571-272-2600.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2600.

/Wenpeng Chen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624

June 19, 2008